

OLD ARABIC SAYINGS,
SIMILES, AND METAPHORS

من أقوال العرب وتشبيهاتهم الأدبية

Translated from the Arabic by

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PREFACE

Translating literary texts is not only an exacting task, but also a risky and thankless one. No matter how faithful a rendition a translator tries to create, he, or she, may be forced to make certain concessions in matters of phraseology, syntax, rhythm, or poetic diction, which, if not meticulously checked, may change the inherent meaning of the text significantly. Of all the literary genres, lyrical poetry (on account of its intricate rhythmical patterns and innumerable connotative implications) and epigrammatic statements (often due to their cryptic brevity and conflicting cultural associations) are undoubtedly the most demanding ones to translate. I have, therefore, paid particular attention to the different intrinsic and extrinsic features of these short texts, for they combine several lyrical qualities as well as many aphoristic elements.

However, in dealing with some ambiguous sayings and abstruse proverbs, I have permitted myself to make changes which seemed unavoidable in order to clarify the meaning of the text, or to increase its readability. Of course I am aware that during this purely subjective process I ran the risk of doing too much or too little. However, I also know that no reader who is in good command of both languages would be totally satisfied with this or with any other translation, and that he, or she, would always feel capable of producing another translation that would correspond more closely to his or her own understanding of the original text. Some, I am sure, would be encouraged--when they see how the two texts, the Arabic and the English, face one another on the same page, and even on the same line--to compare, to criticize, and to modify what is in front of them. All of this is welcome, of course, because I have made this effort in the sincere hope that English-speaking readers (Arabs and non-Arabs) may be able to enjoy and to reflect upon some of the sagacious statements, profound thoughts, and witty observations made by the Arabs over the years and passed down from generation to generation.¹

S.E.

¹ I am indebted to several encyclopedias and anthologies; I am particularly grateful to *al-Munjid* (Beirut: Catholic Press, 1956), for its rich and accurate collection of Arabic proverbs.

١. أَتْرُكُ الشَّرَّ يَتْرُكْكَ.
1. Abandon evil and evil will abandon you.
٢. الأَعْمَالُ بِخَوَاتِمِهَا.
2. Actions are judged by their results.
٣. سَبَقَ السَّيْفُ الْعَذْلَ.
(الْعَذْلُ: اللوم)
3. After the sword has been thrust, any blame becomes futile.
٤. سَكَتَ أَلْفًا وَنَطَقَ خَلْفًا.
4. After utter silence, he uttered nonsense.
٥. لِكُلِّ قَدِيمٍ حُرْمَةٌ.
5. The aged are revered.
٦. وَكُلٌّ غَرِيبٌ لِلْغَرِيبِ نَسِيبٌ.
6. All foreigners are related to one another.
٧. مَنْ كَانَ لَكَ كُفْلُهُ كَانَ عَلَيْكَ كَلٌّ.
(الْكَلُّ: التعب)
7. All the things that belong to us, are the things that trouble us.
٨. آفَةُ الْمَرْوَةِ خُلْفُ الْوَعْدِ.
8. All good intentions are forgotten, if one doesn't keep one's promise.
٩. لَا يَنْفَعُ حَذْرٌ مَنْ قَدَرَ.
إِنَّ الْحَذَرَ لَا يَدْفَعُ الْمَقْدُورَ.
9. All precautions are in vain when man faces his destiny.
١٠. عَلَى الْبَاغِي تَدُورُ الدَّوَائِرُ.
10. All transgressors must one day suffer adversities.
١١. نَعَمُ الْجَدُودُ وَلَكِنْ بئْسَ مَا خَلَفُوا.
11. Although they had the best forefathers, they left behind the worst offspring.
١٢. أَوَّلُ الْعِيِّ الْإِحْتِلَاطُ.
(الْعِي: العجز؛ الإحتلاط: الغضب)
12. Anger is the first sign of helplessness.

13. Annihilation or Domination!

١٣. إِمَّا هُلِكَ وَإِمَّا مُلِكَ.

14. [His anger was as ineffective] as a horse's anger towards its bridle.

١٤. غَضَبَ الْخَيْلِ عَلَى اللَّجْمِ.

15. [They scattered in all directions] as if a skunk had sprayed them with its offensive odor.

١٥. فَسَا بَيْنَهُم الظَّرَبَانِ.

16. [They sat so still] as if birds had nested upon their heads.

١٦. كَأَنَّ عَلَى رُؤُوسِهِم الطَّيْرَ.

17. Averting evil is better than any worldly gain.

١٧. دَرَأُ الْمَافَسَدِ أَوْلَى مِنْ جَلْبِ النِّعَمِ.

18. Avoiding evil is a good deed in itself.

١٨. مِنْ ابْتِغَاءِ الْخَيْرِ اتِّقَاءُ الشَّرِّ.

B

1. Barer than the palm of your hand.

١. أَنْقَى مِنَ الرَّاحَةِ.

2. Be hard as bones, and dogs will chew you.

٢. مَنْ جَعَلَ نَفْسُهُ عَظْمًا أَكَلَتْهُ الْكِلَابُ.

3. Because life is just like this, it has to be endured without a complaint.

٣. مَا الدَّهْرُ إِلَّا هَكَذَا فَاصْبِرْ لَهُ.

4. Because the dates are so tasty, one doesn't want to spit the stones.

٤. مِنْ شَهْوَةِ التَّمْرِ يُمَصُّ النُّوَى.

5. Before proposing to the prettiest girl, make sure you can afford her dowry.

٥. مِنْ خَطَبَ الْحَسَنَاءِ يُعْطَى مَهْرَهَا.

6. Befriend the good and flatter the bad.

٦. آخِ الْأَكْفَاءَ وَدَاهِنِ الْأَعْدَاءَ.

7. A bereaved mother loves the company of bereaved mothers.

٧. الشَّكْلَى تَحِبُّ الشَّكْلَى.

8. The best admonition is the one that deters.

٨. خَيْرُ الْوَعظِ مَا رَدَعَ.

9. The best course is the middle course.

٩. خَيْرُ الْأُمُورِ أَوْسَاطُهَا.

10. The best knowledge is the kind that comes to your aid.

١٠. خَيْرُ الْعِلْمِ مَا حَضَرَكَ.

11. [Don't squeeze yourself] between a tree and its own bark.

١١. بَيْنَ الْعَصَا وَلِحَافِهَا.

12. Beware of those whom you once had helped.

١٢. إِتَّقِ شَرَّ مَنْ أَحْسَنْتَ إِلَيْهِ.

13. Birds of a feather will flock together.

١٣. إِنَّ الطُّيُورَ عَلَى أَشْكَالِهَا تَقَعُ.

14. [It'll be too late, when] the blade hits the bone.

١٤. بَلِّغِ السَّكِّينَ الْعَظْمَ.

15. Blessed by luck, but doomed by stupidity.

١٥. حَظٌّ فِي السَّحَابِ وَعَقْلٌ فِي التَّرَابِ.

16. Blind is the man who is in dire need.

١٦. صَاحِبُ الْحَاجَةِ أَعْمَى.

17. Bolder than a lion.

١٧. أَجْرَأُ مِنْ أَسَامَةِ.
أَجْرَأُ مِنْ ذِي لُبْدَةٍ.
(أَسَامَةُ: الْأَسَدُ؛ ذُو
اللَّبْدَةِ: الْأَسَدُ)

18. A brief talk is the best talk.

١٨. خَيْرُ الْكَلَامِ مَا قَلَّ وَدَلَّ.

19. Buffoonery eradicates dignity.

١٩. الْمَزَاحَةُ تُذْهِبُ الْمَهَابَةَ.

20. [Like someone who] builds a house and destroys a city. ٢٠. يَبْنِي قَصْرًا وَيَهْدِمُ مِصْرًا.
21. A bull uses his horns to protect his nose. ٢١. الثَّوْرُ يَحْمِي أَنْفَهُ بِرَوْقِهِ. (الروق: القرن)

C

1. Can a falcon ever fly without wings? ١. هل ينهض البازي بلا جناح! (الباز، البازي: الصقر)
2. Can a wolf ever turn into a ewe? ٢. ذئب استنعج.
3. Can the moon be overlooked? ٣. وهل يُخْفَى على الناس القمر!
4. Can the shadow be straight when the rod is crooked? ٤. هل يستقيم الظلُّ والعودُ أعوجُ.
5. Cheaper than the dates of Basra. ٥. أرخصُ من التمر بالبصرة.
6. Choose a wise man to be your emissary, and don't give him any instructions. ٦. أَرْسِلْ حَكِيمًا وَلَا تَوْصِيهِ.
7. Clearer than a rooster's eye. ٧. أَصْفَى مِنْ عَيْنِ الدِّيكِ.
8. Clearer than honey. ٨. أَصْفَى مِنْ جَنَى النحل.
9. Clearer than a teardrop. ٩. أَصْفَى مِنَ الدَّمْعَةِ. أَنْقَى مِنَ الدَّمْعَةِ.
10. Closer to a man than his own shadow. ١٠. أَلْزَمُ لِلْمَرْءِ مِنْ ظِلِّهِ.

11. Complaining is a weak man's only weapon. ١١. سِلَاحُ الضَّعْفَاءِ الشَّكَايَةُ.
12. Contentment is better than all the riches of the world. ١٢. خَيْرُ الْغِنَى الْقُنُوعُ.
13. [Someone is] covered with more clothes than an onion. ١٣. أَكْسَى مِنْ بَصْلَةٍ.
14. [Someone is like] a cow that is butting its kindest milker. ١٤. خَيْرُ حَالِبِكَ تَنْطَحِينَا.
15. Cowardice begets neither gain nor loss. ١٥. ثَمَرَةُ الْجُبْنِ لَا رِبْحَ وَلَا خُسْرَ.

D

1. Daylight makes all candles superfluous. ١. أَغْنَى الصَّبَاحُ عَنِ الْمَصْبَاحِ.
2. [Like someone who is trying to] daub the sun with mud. ٢. يُطَيِّنُ عَيْنَ الشَّمْسِ.
3. Deeds testify better than any witness. ٣. شَهَادَاتُ الْفِعَالِ خَيْرُ مِنْ شَهَادَاتِ الرِّجَالِ.
4. The deluge is about to cover all mountaintops. ٤. بَلَغَ السَّيْلُ الزُّبْيَ. (الزُّبْيُ جَمْعُ زُبْيَةٍ: مَكَانٌ عَالٍ لَا يَصِلُ إِلَيْهِ الْمَاءُ)
5. [The difference between the two of them is like] the difference between a date and a lump of burning coal. ٥. كَالْفَرْقِ بَيْنَ الثَّمَرَةِ وَالْجَمْرَةِ.

6. [Like someone who keeps] dipping his brush in an empty can of paint.

٦. يَدُهُنْ مِنْ قَارُورَةٍ فارغة.

7. Discreeter than a chameleon.

٧. أَحْزَمُ مِنَ الْحِرْبَاءِ.

8. Disobey your own self, and you will be doing the right thing.

٨. خَالَفَ نَفْسَكَ تَسْتَرْح.
خَالَفَ هَوَاكَ تَرْشُد.

9. Distrusting people is sheer prudence.

٩. الْحَزْمُ سُوءُ الظَّنِّ بِالنَّاسِ.

10. A dog remains a dog even if it wears a golden collar.

١٠. الْكَلْبُ كَلْبٌ وَلَوْ طَوَّقَهُ ذَهَبًا.

11. A dog's barking never reaches the clouds.

١١. نَبْحُ الْكَلَابِ لَا يَضُرُّ بِالسَّحَابِ.

12. Don't be soft or you'll be squeezed, and don't be hard or you'll be broken.

١٢. لَا تَكُنْ رَطْبًا فَتُعْصَرُ وَلَا يَابَسًا فَتُكْسَرُ.

13. Don't be too sweet or you'll be swallowed, and don't be too bitter or you'll be tossed off.

١٣. لَا تَكُنْ حُلُوءًا فَتُسْتَرْطَ وَلَا مُرًّا فَتُتْعَيَّ.
(يَسْتَرْطُ: يَبْتَلَعُ؛ يَعْطِي الشَّيْءُ: يَلْفِظُهُ)

14. Don't censure a certain behavior, only to embrace it afterwards.

١٤. لَا تَنْهَ عَنْ خَلْقٍ وَتَأْتِي مِثْلَهُ.

15. Don't dive if you can't swim.

١٥. لَا تَقْعَنَّ الْبَحْرَ الْأَسَاحًا.

16. Don't lose the hens to save the eggs.

١٦. لَا تُحْيِ الْبَيْضَ وَتَقْتُلِ الْفَرَاخَ.

17. Don't squeeze yourself between the layers of an onion.

١٧. لَا تَدْخُلْ بَيْنَ الْبَصَلَةِ وَقَشَرِهَا.

18. Don't take a poison only because you have its antidote.

١٨. لَا تَشْرَبِ السَّمَّ اتِّكَالًا عَلَى التَّرْيَاقِ.

19. [Someone] drifts with every wind.

١٩. يَهْبُ كُلَّ رِيحٍ.

E

1. Each head has its own ache.

١. كُلُّ رَأْسٍ بِهِ صُدَاعٌ.

2. [Someone] eats more than a whale.

٢. أَكَلُ مَنْ حَوْتٍ.

3. [Someone] eats more than a wood worm.

٢. أَكَلُ مَنْ السُّوسِ.

4. Enmity, hatred, and sickness never arrive in small shares.

٤. لَا قَلِيلٌ فِي الْعَدَاوَةِ وَالْإِحْنِ وَالْمَرَضِ.
(الْإِحْنَةُ: الْحَقْدُ)

5. An envious man will be smitten for his grudge.

٥. وَيَلُ لِلْحَسَدِ مَنْ حَسَدَهُ.

6. [Like someone who] escapes the heat by jumping into the fire.

٦. كَالْمُسْتَجِيرِ مِنَ الرَّمْضَاءِ بِالنَّارِ.
(الرَّمْضَاءُ: شِدَّةُ الْحَرِّ)

7. Even a little evil is too much evil.

٧. الشَّرُّ قَلِيلُهُ كَثِيرٌ.

8. Even an unskilled archer may sometimes hit the target.

٨. رَبُّ رَمِيَةٍ مِنْ غَيْرِ رَامٍ.

9. Even a she-camel is sometimes kind to her suckling.

٩. لا يُعَدُّم الحَوَارُ مِنْ أُمِّ حَنَّةَ.
(الحوار: رضيع الناقة)

10. Even if I tried to feed him honey, he'd always try to bite my fingers.

١٠. لو أَلْقَمْتَهُ عَسْلاً لَعَضَّ
إصبعي.

11. Even the cow that doesn't like to be milked, will have to fill its pail.

١١. الضَّجُور تحلب العُلْبَة.

12. Every chick was once an egg.

١٢. كلّ قَائِبٍ مِنْ قُوبَةٍ.
(القائبة: الفرخ أو البيضة؛
القوب: الفرخ أو البيضة)

13. Every dress fits someone.

١٣. لكلّ ثوبٍ لابس.

14. Every dog barks loudly, when it stands beside its home.

١٤. كلّ كَلْبٍ بِيَابِهِ تَبَّاحٌ.

15. Every era has its men.

١٥. لكلّ دَهرٍ رجال.
لكلّ زَمَانٍ رجال.

16. Every girl admires her father.

١٦. كلُّ فَتَاةٍ بِأَبِيهَا مُعْجَبَةٌ.

17. Every distress ends in relief.

١٧. كلُّ هَمٍّ إِلَى فَرَجٍ.
إِنَّ بَعْدَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا.

18. Every man has his share of grief.

١٨. كلُّ إِنْسَانٍ وَهْمٌ.

19. Every man is formed by his days.

١٩. الإنسانُ ابْنُ يَوْمِهِ.

20. Every man reflects his clan.

٢٠. المرءُ مرآةُ أَخِيهِ.

21. Every new day brings along its own sustenance.

٢١. لكلّ غَدٍ طَعَامٌ.

22. Every learned man will once err.

٢٢. لكلّ عالمٍ هَفْوَةٌ.

23. Every pasture was grazed once.

٢٢. بكلّ عُشْبٍ أَثَارُ رَعْيٍ.

24. Every plant has its sap.

٢٤. لكلّ عُودٍ عَصَارَةٌ.

25. Every pot oozes what it has inside.

٢٥. وكلّ إِنَاءٍ بِالَّذِي فِيهِ يَنْضَحُ.

26. Every runaway camel will eventually return to its hitching place.

٢٦. عُوْدِي إِلَى مَبَارِكِكِ.

27. Every sun will have to set.

٢٧. لكلّ شَمْسٍ مَغْرِبٌ.

28. Everything folded will one day be unfolded.

٢٨. لكلّ طَيٍّ نَشْرٌ.

29. Every thoroughbred may once trip, and every learned man may once err.

٢٩. لكلّ جَوَادٍ كَبُوءَةٌ وَلِكُلِّ عَالِمٍ هَفْوَةٌ.

30. Every torrential rain starts with a trickle.

٢٠. أَوَّلُ الْغَيْثِ قَطْرٌ ثُمَّ يَنْهَمِرُ.

31. Every tree was once a pit.

٢١. أَوَّلُ الشَّجَرَةِ نَوَاةٌ.
النَّوَى أَوَّلُ الشَّجَرَةِ.

32. Every war has its ups and downs.

٢٢. الْحَرْبُ سِجَالٌ.
(سِجَالٌ: مَسَاجِلَةٌ)

33. Excessiveness is never good; even good deeds shouldn't be excessive.

٢٢. لَا خَيْرَ فِي السَّرَفِ وَلَا
سَرَفٌ فِي الْخَيْرِ.

34. Excuses and lies are one and the same.

٢٤. المَعَذِرُ مَكَاذِبُ.

35. Excuses will be accepted by noble-minded people.

٢٥. وَالْعِذْرُ عِنْدَ كِرَامِ النَّاسِ
مَقْبُولٌ.

36. Eyes reveal the truth better than words.

٢٦. اللَّحْظُ أَصْدَقُ إِنْبَاءٍ مِنْ
اللِّغْظِ.

F

1. Fairer than a weight scale.

١. أَعْدَلُ مِنْ مِيزَانٍ.

2. Falsehood has a short life-time, but truth will endure until the end of time.

٢. جَوَلَةُ الْبَاطِلِ سَاعَةٌ وَجَوَلَةُ
الْحَقِّ إِلَى قِيَامِ السَّاعَةِ.

3. Farther back than yesterday.

٣. أَفَوْتُ مِنْ أَمْسٍ.

4. Feather your arrow before you shoot it.

٤. قَبْلَ الرَّمِي يُرَاشِ السَّهْمُ.

5. First attacks are usually awkward.

٥. أَوَّلُ الْغَزْوِ أَخْرَقٌ.

6. First the companion, then the road.

٦. الرِّفِيقُ قَبْلَ الطَّرِيقِ.

7. First the neighbor, then the home.

٧. الْجَارُ ثَمَ الدَّارِ.

8. First you scold, then you punish.

٨. الْعِتَابُ قَبْلَ الْعِقَابِ.

9. Flawless are the things we desire.

٩. حَسَنٌ فِي كُلِّ عَيْنٍ مَا تَوَدُّ.

10. Flaying doesn't hurt the slaughtered lamb.

١٠. الشَّاةُ الْمَذْبُوحَةُ لَا يُؤْلِمُهَا
السَّلْخُ.

11. Flies recognize the milkman.

١١. الذِّبَّانُ يَعْرِفُ وَجْهَ اللَّبَّانِ.

12. [Someone, or something,] follows him closer than his own shadow.

١٢. أَتَبِعُ مِنَ الظِّلِّ.

13. Fools have it easy in every respect.

١٣. إِسْتِرَاحٌ مِنْ لَا عَقْلَ لَهُ.

14. Forbidden things are what we covet.

١٤. أَحَبُّ شَيْءٍ إِلَى الْإِنْسَانِ مَا
مُنْعَا.

15. For every beautiful thing there is a faultfinder.

١٥. لِكُلِّ حَسَنِ عَائِبٍ.

16. For every beautiful woman there is a detractor.

١٦. لَا تُعَدِّمُ الْحَسَنَاءُ ذَامًّا.

17. For every claimant there is a contestant.

١٧. لِكُلِّ زَعَمٍ خَصَمٌ.

18. For every occasion there is a fitting word.

١٨. لِكُلِّ مَقَامٍ مَقَالٌ.

19. Forgetfulness is a disease that afflicts knowledgeable people.

١٩. آفَةُ الْعِلْمِ النِّسْيَانُ.

20. Forgiveness is at its best, when one is mighty.

٢٠. خَيْرُ الْعَفْوِ مَا كَانَ عِنْدَ
الْمَقْدَرَةِ.

21. For one reason or another, masters become masters.

٢١. لِأَمْرٍ مَا يَسُودُ مِنْ يَسُودُ.

22. For those who see with their own eyes, proofs are never needed.

23. [Don't wait until tomorrow,] for tomorrow may belong to someone else.

24. For waging wars, God has created a special breed of men.

25. Frailer than a spiderweb.

26. A free man always keeps his promise.

27. A free man's chest is the tomb of his secrets.

28. [Someone] fumbles like a half-blind camel.

٢٢. الْعَيَانُ لَا يَحْتَاجُ إِلَى الْبَيَانِ .

٢٣. عَسَى غَدًا لغيرك .

٢٤. خَلَقَ اللَّهُ لِلْحَرْبِ رَجَالًا .

٢٥. أَوْهَنُ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْعَنْكَبُوتِ .

٢٦. أَنْجِزْ حُرًّا مَا وَعَدَ .

٢٧. صُدُورُ الْأَحْرَارِ قُبُورُ الْأَسْرَارِ .

٢٨. يَخْبِطُ خَبْطَ عَشَوَاءَ .
(العشواء [مؤنث الأعشى]:
الناقة التي لا تبصر جيدًا)

G

1. Generosity will be discredited if it is given in excess.

2. God's hand is above all hands.

3. Good deeds enslave people.

4. Good deeds end all kinds of malice.

١. آفَةُ الْجُودِ الْإِسْرَافُ .

٢. وَمَا مِنْ يَدٍ إِلَّا يَدُ اللَّهِ فَوْقَهَا .

٣. النَّاسُ عَبِيدُ الْإِحْسَانِ .

٤. الْإِحْسَانُ يَقْطَعُ اللِّسَانَ .

5. Good deeds will prevail, even after a long time.

6. A good man's joy is written on his face, but his grief is hidden deep in his heart.

7. Gentle words capture hearts.

8. Give bad things a chance to miss you.

9. The truth lies under the bubbles.

10. Give him first your best dates, then if needed, what he hates.

11. Good deeds make a man happy in both worlds.

12. The graying of a man's hair is the first announcement of his impending death.

13. Greed leads to privation.

14. Greedier than an ant.

15. A greedy man doesn't get more than his allotted share.

16. A grudge is not needed when you have power.

٥. الْخَيْرُ أَبْقَى وَإِنْ طَالَ الزَّمَانُ بِهِ .

٦. الْمُؤْمِنُ بَشْرُهُ فِي وَجْهِهِ وَحُزْنُهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ .

٧. لِينُ الْكَلَامِ قَيْدُ الْقُلُوبِ .

٨. دَعِ الْعَوْرَاءِ تَخْطَاكَ .
(يُقَالُ أَنْ هَذَا هُوَ أَحْكَمُ مِثْلٍ ضَرَبْتَهُ الْعَرَبُ!)

٩. الصَّرِيحُ تَحْتَ الرِّغْوَةِ .

١٠. أَعْطِ أَخَاكَ تَمْرَةً فَإِنْ أَبَى فَجَمْرَةً .

١١. خَيْرُ الْأُمُورِ مَا أَسْعَدَكَ فِي دَارِيكَ .

١٢. شَيْبُكَ نَاعِيكَ .

١٣. الْحِرْصُ قَائِدُ الْحِرْمَانِ .

١٤. أَحْرَصُ مِنْ نَمْلَةٍ .

١٥. لَيْسَ الْحَرِيصُ بِزَائِدٍ فِي رِزْقِهِ .

١٦. إِنَّ الْمَقْدَرَةَ تُذْهِبُ الْحَفِيزَةَ .

H

1. A habitual liar should have a good memory. ١. إن كنت كذوباً فكن ذكوراً.
كن ذكوراً اذا كنت كذوباً.
2. Happy are those who share the happiness of others. ٢. خير الناس من فرح للناس
بالخير.
3. Hardships will never dishearten a man of courage. ٢. الحرُّ حرٌّ وإن مسَّه الضرُّ.
4. Hard work may exhaust a man, but idleness for sure will ruin him. ٤. إن يكن الشغل مَجْهَدةً فإنَّ
الفراغ مفسدة.
5. Harder than a rock. ٥. أقسى من صخر.
6. A harmless chat can sometimes lead to serious topics. ٦. الحديث ذو شجون.
7. Harsher than fate. ٧. أجفَى من الدهر.
8. Hearing is never the same as seeing. ٨. ليس الخبرُ كالمعاينة.
9. Haughtier than a crow. ٩. أزهى من غراب.
10. Haughtier than a lion's nose. ١٠. أعزُّ من أنف الأسد.
11. Haughtier than a mountain goat. ١١. أزهى من وعل.
12. Haughtier than an eagle in the sky. ١٢. أعزُّ من عُقاب الجوّ.

١٢. أزهى من طاووس.
١٤. إرحم من دونك يرحمك من فوقك.
١٥. ما أملكُ شداً ولا إرخاءً.
١٦. لا يملك شروى نقيير. (الشروى: المثل؛ النقيير: شق في النواة تنبت منه النخلة)
١٧. ما عنده خلٌّ ولا خمرٌ.
١٨. ما له ثاغيةٌ ولا راغية. (الثاغية: النعجة؛ الراغية: الناقة)
١٩. جاءَ بقرتني حِمَارٌ.
٢٠. من طلب أخاً بلا عيب بقي بلا أخ.
٢١. من علت همته طال همُّه.
٢٢. من صار نعجةً أكله الذئب.
13. Haughtier than a peacock.
14. Have mercy on those below you, and you'll have mercy from those above you.
15. [Someone is so helpless that] he can neither pull nor let go.
16. [Someone is so poor that] he doesn't even have a date pit to his name.
17. [Someone is so poor that] he has neither wine nor vinegar.
18. [Someone is so poor that] he owns neither a sheep nor a camel.
19. [A shameless liar may even claim that] he had once captured a donkey that had a pair of horns.
20. He who asks for a faultless friend, is doomed to stay without a friend.
21. He who aspires higher than others, has more worries to contend with.
22. He who becomes a lamb, will be devoured by wolves.

23. He who blindly trusts the days, will always be betrayed. ٢٣. من أَمِنَ الزَّمانَ خانَهُ.
24. He who challenges his destiny, will be vanquished every time. ٢٤. من غَالِبَ الأَيَّامِ غُلِبَ. من سابقِ الدهرِ عثرَ.
25. He who chooses the smooth road, will be safe of all pitfalls. ٢٥. من سَلَكَ الجَدَدَ أَمِنَ العِثَارَ. (الجَدَدُ: الأرضُ المستوية)
26. He who conveys an insult to you, shares the blame for insulting you. ٢٦. سَبَّكَ من بَلَّغَكَ السَّبَّ.
27. He who despises his money, dignifies himself. ٢٧. من أَهَانَ مالَهُ أَكْرَمَ نَفْسَهُ.
28. He who fears no one, no one will ever fear. ٢٨. من لَا يَخَافُ أَحَدًا لَا يَخَافُهُ أَحَدٌ.
29. He who follows his desires, is choosing this world and not the next. ٢٩. من أَطَاعَ هَوَاهُ بَاعَ دِينَهُ بَدَنِيَّاهُ.
30. He who goes beyond his limit, will one day disgrace himself. ٣٠. من أَكْثَرَ أَهْجَرَ. (الهَاجِرَاتُ، أَهْجَرَاتُ: الفَضَائِحُ، الفَحْشَى)
31. He who has the might, will always get the spoils. ٣١. من عَزَّ بَزَّ. (عَزَّ: قَوِيَ، اشْتَدَّ؛ بَزَّ: غَلِبَ، سَلَبَ)
32. He who helps you abuse others, is himself abusing you. ٣٢. من أَعَانَكَ عَلَى الشَّرِّ ظَلَمَكَ.

33. He who informs you about them, will soon inform them about you. ٣٣. من نَقَلَ إِلَيْكَ فَقَدْ نَقَلَ عَنْكَ.
34. He who is not a real wolf, will be devoured by other wolves. ٣٤. من لَمْ يَكُنْ ذِئْبًا أَكَلَتْهُ الذَّنَابُ.
35. He who looks hard within himself, will undoubtedly find God. ٣٥. من عَرَفَ نَفْسَهُ عَرَفَ رَبَّهُ.
36. He who magnifies his own misfortunes, will be afflicted with greater ones. ٣٦. من عَظَّمَ صِغَارَ المَصَائِبِ ابْتَلَاهُ اللَّهُ بِكِبَارِهَا.
37. He who moves cautiously, will surely reach his goal. ٣٧. من تَأَنَّى ادْرَكَ مَا تَمَنَّى.
38. He who ponders all results, will avert all disasters. ٣٨. من نَظَرَ فِي العَوَاقِبِ سَلِمَ مِنَ النَوَائِبِ.
39. He who repents all his sins, is like a man without sins. ٣٩. التَّائِبُ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ كَمَنْ لَا ذَنْبَ لَهُ.
40. He who says something nice, will always hear something nice. ٤٠. مَنْ أَجْمَلَ قِيلًا سَمِعَ جَمِيلًا.
41. He who serves others, others will always serve him. ٤١. مَنْ خَدَمَ الرِّجَالَ خُدِمَ.
42. He who slights himself, will be slighted by everyone. ٤٢. مَنْ هَانَ عَلَيْهِ نَفْسُهُ فَهُوَ عَلَى غَيْرِهِ أَهُونُ.
43. He who tries hard, will ultimately find the right path. ٤٣. مَنْ جَدَّ وَجَدَ.

44. He who transgresses the truth, will find himself on a sinister path. ٤٤. من تعدَّى الحق ضاع مذهبه.
45. He who trusts his fellowmen, will always have a peaceful life. ٤٥. من حسنَ ظنَّه طابَ عيشُه.
46. He who was once bitten by a snake, becomes cautious of every length of rope. ٤٦. من نهشتهُ الحيةُ حذرَ الرسن. (الرسن: الحبل)
47. He who wavers, will always fail. ٤٧. من هابَ خاب.
48. He who wrestles with the truth, will ultimately be brought to the ground. ٤٨. من صارعَ الحقَّ صرعه.
49. He who yields to his anger, is a man of bad manners. ٤٩. من أطاعَ غضبه أضاعَ أدبه.
50. [Someone is so deft that] he would easily lift the kohl from a woman's eyelids. ٥٠. يسرق الكحل من العين.
51. [Someone is so stupid that] he wouldn't know the difference between his elbow and his foot. ٥١. لا يعرف الكوع من البوع. (البوع: عظم في مشط القدم)
52. His words are air in a cage. ٥٢. كلامه ريح في قفص.
53. An honorable man's word is a debt he must repay. ٥٣. وعد الكريم دين.
54. Hope ends when life ends. ٥٤. لا تخرج النفس من الأمل حتى تدخل في الأجل.

55. Horses are the best judges of their riders. ٥٥. الخيلُ أعلمُ بفُرسانها.
56. Horses recognize their own riders. ٥٦. عرَفَت الخيلُ فُرسانها.
57. Hotter than live coal. ٥٧. أحرُّ من نار الغَضَى. (الغضى: نوع من الخشب يبقى جمرة زمنا طويلا لا ينطفئ)
58. An hour's pain is better than hours of pain. ٥٨. وجعُ ساعةٍ ولا كُلُّ ساعة.
59. How painful can an ant's bite be! ٥٩. ما عسى ان يبلغَ عَضُّ النمل.
60. Hungrier than a wolf. ٦٠. أجوعُ من ذئب.
61. Hurricanes sweep away all kinds of windfall. ٦١. مالٌ تجلبه الرياحُ تأخذه الزوايع.

I

1. I am furious and you're in rage, how can we turn a new page! ١. أنا تَتَق وَأنت مَتَق فكيف نَتَفَق. (التتق: المثلث غضباً؛ المتق: من يكاد يبكي من شدة الغيظ)
2. I am not the first man to be deceived by a mirage. ٢. لست بأوَّل من غرَّه السَرَابُ.

3. I bet if I traded in coffins, no one would ever die.
4. I'd rather be devoured by a lion than eaten by a dog.
5. I'd rather eat my own flesh before anyone else does.
6. I fed you my best broth, in anticipation of a day like this.
7. If a lion spares you, don't be tempted to hunt it down.
8. If God doesn't provide, all hard work remains useless.
9. If God has given you a ladle, then there is no need to burn your fingers.
10. [It wouldn't have been such a disgrace,] if I had been slapped by a real lady.
11. If it is your rip, patch it up.
12. If it weren't for concessions, there wouldn't be a human race.
13. If lying is a sickness, telling the truth is the only remedy.
14. [This will be possible only] if milk could be pushed back into the udder.
٢. لو اتَّجَرْتُ بِالْأَكْفَانِ مَا مَاتَ أَحَدٌ.
٤. يَاكُلْنِي سَبْعٌ وَلَا يَأْكُلْنِي كَلْبٌ.
٥. أَكَلْتُ لَحْمِي وَلَا أَدْعُهُ لِأَكُلَ.
٦. لِمَثَلٍ هَذَا كُنْتُ أَحْسِيكَ الْحَسَا.
٧. إِنْ سَلِمْتَ مِنَ الْأَسَدِ فَلَا تَطْمَعُ فِي صَيْدِهِ.
٨. رِزْقُ اللَّهِ لَا كَذُكْ.
٩. إِذَا رَزَقَكَ اللَّهُ مَغْرَفَةً فَلَا تُحْرِقْ يَدَكَ.
١٠. لَوْ ذَاتُ سِوَاكِ لَطَمْتَنِي.
١١. عِنْدَكَ وَهْيٌ فَارْقَعِيهِ. (الوهي: العيب، الشق)
١٢. لَوْلَا الْوَنَامُ لَهْلَكَ الْإِنْسَانُ.
١٣. الْكَذِبُ دَاءٌ وَالصِّدْقُ شِفَاءٌ.
١٤. حَتَّى يَرْجِعَ الدَّرُّ فِي الضَّرْعِ. (الدَّرُّ: اللبن)

١٥. لو كان في البومة خير ما تركها الصيَّاد.
١٦. لو أنصف الناسُ استراح القاضي.
١٧. إختلط الحابل بالنابل. (الحابل: من ينصب الجبال، الصائد، أو من يشد جبال القوس؛ النابل: صاحب النبال أو السهام، أو صانعها أو الرامي بها)
١٨. إذا كنت سندانا فاصبر وإذا كنت مطرقة فأوجع.
١٩. إن لم تُزاحم لم يقع في الخُرج شيء.
٢٠. ليس عليك نسجٌ فاسحب وجر.
٢١. إذا ضربت فأوجع وإذا زجرت فأسمع.
٢٢. إذا حككتُ قرحةً أدميتها.
٢٣. إذا عَزَّ أخوك فَهْنٌ.
٢٤. الجهل شرُّ الأصحاب.
15. If owls were good for something, hunters wouldn't have left them alone.
16. If people were fair, judges would have nothing to do.
17. If the bow maker and the arrow maker get entangled, no hunt will ever take place.
18. If you become an anvil, be patient; if you become a hammer, be painful.
19. If you don't push and shove, you'll end up holding an empty bag.
20. If you haven't woven it yourself, then drag it and shove it as you please.
21. If you hit, make it painful, and if you scold, make it loud.
22. If you scratch a wound, it will certainly bleed.
23. If your brother pulls hard, then it is your turn to release.
24. Ignorance is a man's worst companion.

25. I hear grinding but see no flour.

٢٥. [أسمع] جَعَجَعَةً ولا أرى طحناً.

26. It is always nice to be in charge, even if it is only of a pile of rocks.

٢٦. يَا حَبْذَا الْإِمَارَةَ وَلَوْ عَلَى الْحِجَارَةِ.

27. It is either your brother or the wolf.

٢٧. أَخُوكَ أَمْ الذِّئْبُ

28. It is not fair to ask the wolf to guard the sheep.

٢٨. مَنْ اسْتَرْعَى الذِّئْبَ ظَلَمَ.

29. It is the worst of all deals when you lose the camel to save the fetters.

٢٩. بِئْسَ الْعَوْضُ مَنْ جَمَلَ قَيْدُهُ.

J

1. Just listening to evil talk is evil enough.

١. حَسْبَكَ مِنْ شَرِّ سَمَاعَةٍ.

2. Just lower your head, and this too will pass.

٢. تَطَاطَأْ لَهَا تُخْطِئْكَ.

3. Just tell him these are red dates, and he will insist they are glowing embers.

٣. لَوْ قُلْتُ تَمْرَةٌ لَقَالَ جَمْرَةٌ

K

1. Knowledge is afflicted by forgetfulness.

١. آفَةُ الْعِلْمِ النِّسْيَانُ.

2. Keep your dog hungry, and it will follow you everywhere.

٢. أَجْعَلْ كَلْبَكَ يَتَّبِعُكَ.

3. Kindness enslaves all free men.

٣. بِالْبِرِّ يُسْتَعْبَدُ الْحُرُّ.

L

1. A large spoon reaches the bottom of every pot.

١. تُخْرِجُ الْمِقْدَحَةُ مَا فِي قَعْرِ الْبَرْمَةِ.

(الْمِقْدَحَةُ: الْمَغْرَفَةُ؛ الْبَرْمَةُ: قَدْرٌ مَصْنُوعٌ مِنْ حَجَرٍ)

2. Learned men are God's custodians of humanity.

٢. الْعُلَمَاءُ أَمْنَاءُ اللَّهِ عَلَى خَلْقِهِ.

3. Less defined than a "thing."

٣. أَنْكَرُ مِنْ شَيْءٍ.

4. Less food means less illness.

٤. خَفَفَ طَعَامُكَ تَأْمَنَ سَقَامُكَ.

5. Less reachable than an eagle in the sky.

٥. أَمْنَعُ مِنْ عُقَابِ الْجَوِّ.

6. Less reachable than a vulture's egg.

٦. أَبْعَدُ مِنْ بَيْضِ الْأَنْوَقِ. أَعَزُّ مِنْ بَيْضِ الْأَنْوَقِ. (الْأَنْوَقُ: الْعُقَابُ، الرُّخْمَةُ)

7. Less reliable than the water of a creek.
8. Less useful than a lamp placed in the sunlight.
9. Less useful than a sheath that has no blade.
10. Let us dismount, for we have reached greener pastures!
11. Lies undermine all communications.
12. [Someone] lies more than a captive.
13. Like a camel driver who has just lost his caravan.
14. Like a thunderbolt that brings no rain.
15. Like a physician who is trying to heal others, while he himself is sick.
16. Like a scorpion who challenges a snake to a fight.
17. Like a vicious circle that has no beginning and has no end.
18. Like iron, a human heart also rusts.

٧. أَغْدَرُ مِنْ غَدِيرٍ .
٨. أَضِيعُ مِنْ سِرَاجٍ فِي شَمْسٍ .
٩. أَضِيعُ مِنْ غَمْدٍ بِلَا نَصْلِ .
١٠. أَمْرَعْتُ فَانْزِلْ .
١١. أَفَةُ الْحَدِيثِ الْكَذِبُ .
١٢. أَكْذِبُ مِنَ الْأَخِيزِ .
(الأخيز: الأسير)
١٣. كَالْحَادِي وَلَيْسَ لَهُ بَعِيرٌ .
(الحادي: سائق الإبل)
١٤. إِنَّمَا هُوَ كِبْرَقُ الْخُلْبِ .
(الخُلْب: سحاب لا مطر فيه)
١٥. طَبِيبٌ يَدَاوِي النَّاسَ وَهُوَ مَرِيضٌ .
١٦. تَحَكَّكَتِ الْعَقْرَبُ بِالْأَفْعَى .
١٧. كَالْحَلْقَةِ الْمُرْغَةِ لَا يُدْرَى أَيْنَ طَرَفَاهَا .
١٨. تَصْدَأُ الْقُلُوبُ كَمَا يَصْدَأُ الْحَدِيدُ .

19. Like sheep on a green pasture that aren't allowed to graze.
20. Like someone running from the heat into the fire.
21. Like someone who roasted his meat, then dropped it into the fire.
22. Like swarms of locust that strip the land of all seeds and plants.
23. Like the Kaaba, people come to it, but it goes to no one.
24. Like the ostrich, it is neither a bird nor a camel.
25. Like writing on water.
26. A listless person has no friends.
27. Longer lasting than a message engraved in stone.
28. Longer lasting than eternity.
29. Longer than the month of Ramadan.
30. Longer than the shadow of a lance.

١٩. كَالْمَرْبُوطِ وَالْمَرْعَى خَصِيبٌ .
٢٠. كَالْمُسْتَفِثِ مِنَ الرَّمْضَاءِ بِالنَّارِ .
(الرمضاء: شدة الحر)
٢١. أَنْضَجَ أَخُوكَ ثُمَّ رَمَدَ .
٢٢. كَالْجَرَادِ لَا يُبْقِي وَلَا يَذَرُ .
٢٣. كَالْكَعْبَةِ تُزَارُّ وَلَا تُزُورُ .
٢٤. مِثْلُ النِّعَامَةِ لَا طَيْرٌ وَلَا جَمَلٌ .
٢٥. كَالرَّاقِمِ عَلَى الْمَاءِ .
٢٦. لَيْسَ لِلَّوْلِ صَدِيقٌ .
٢٧. أَبْقَى مِنْ وَحْيٍ فِي حَجَرٍ .
(الوحي: الرسالة، المكتوب)
٢٨. أَبْقَى مِنَ الدَّهْرِ .
٢٩. أَطْوَلُ مِنْ شَهْرِ الصَّوْمِ .
٣٠. أَطْوَلُ مِنْ ظِلِّ الرَّمْحِ .

31. The longer you live, the more you see.

٢١. مهما تَعَشَّ تَرَهُ.

32. Look after your friend even if you were engulfed by fire.

٢٢. حافظٌ على الصديق ولو في الحريق.

33. [Someone] loses his way easier than a lizard does.

٢٣. أضل من ضب.
(الضب: حيوان من الزحافات، "السحلية")

34. Lost are those who are guided by blind people.

٢٤. قد ضلَّ من كانت العميان تهديه.

35. A lover's eye never sees the truth.

٢٥. عين الهوى لا تصدق.

36. A low land sucks its water and the water destined for other lands.

٢٦. الأرض الواطئة تشرب ماءها وماء غيرها.

37. Lower your bucket in every well.

٢٧. ألق في الدلاء دلو.
(دَلَّى الدلو: أرسل الدلو في البئر)

M

1. Madness takes many shapes and forms.

١. الجنون فنون.

2. Make sure your bed is snug and soft before you lie down.

٢. دَمَّثْ لجنبك قبل النوم مضطجعا.
(دَمَّثْ: لين)

3. Man always covets what he doesn't possess.

٣. المرء تَوَاقَّ الى ما لم يَنَلْ.

4. A man always senses who is on his side.

٤. النفسُ تعلمُ مَنْ اخوها النافع.

5. The man in charge is the most tormented man around.

٥. سيِّدُ القومِ أشقاهم.

6. Man is enslaved by good deeds.

٦. الإنسانُ عبدُ الإحسان.

7. A man is known by the friends he keeps.

٧. المرءُ بخليله.

8. A man is sometimes blamed for what takes place in his neighbor's house.

٨. قد يُؤخذُ الجارُ بذنب الجار.

9. Mankind is the prey of fate.

٩. الأنامُ فرائسُ الأيام.

10. A man shouldn't be blamed for evading his own destruction.

١٠. ليس يُلامُ هارب من حتفه.

11. A man stands where he puts himself.

١١. المرءُ حيث يضع نفسه.

12. A man's choice is an indication of his wisdom.

١٢. دَلٌّ على عاقلٍ اختياره.

13. A man's companion is a reflected image of himself.

١٣. جَلِيسُ المرءِ مثله.

14. A man's appearance may be more telling than his words.

١٤. رُبَّ حالٍ أفصح من لسان.

15. A man's erudition is in his heart, and not within the pages of his books.

١٥. العلمُ في الصدور لا في السطور.

16. A man's good manners are better than all his riches. ١٦. أدب المرء خير من ذهبه.
17. A man's injustice is what causes his downfall. ١٧. ظلم المرء يصرعه.
18. A man's inner wealth is better than any other wealth. ١٨. غنى النفس أفضل من غنى المال.
19. A man's livelihood depends on good planning. ١٩. التدبير نصف المعيشة.
20. A man's might is measured by the degree of his independence. ٢٠. عزُّ الرجل استغناؤه عن الناس.
21. A man is most vulnerable between his jaws. ٢١. مقتلُ الرجل بين فكَّيه.
22. A man's true nature will always prevail. ٢٢. الطبع أغلب.
23. A man's wisdom is reflected in what he does, and his knowledge, in what he says. ٢٢. دليلُ عقل المرء فعله ودليل علمه قوله.
24. Many arrows may miss, but eventually one will hit the mark. ٢٤. مع الخواطي سهم صائب.
25. Meager but yours, is better than plump but theirs. ٢٥. غنَّك خيرٌ من سمين غيرك.
26. Milk the cow only if you'll get your share. ٢٦. احلب حلباً لك شطره.
27. Merry days are short days. ٢٧. يوم السرور قصير.

28. Misfortunes of some, are blessings for others. ٢٨. مصائب قوم عند قوم فوائد.
29. Modesty is the crown of all knightly virtues. ٢٩. تاجُ الرُّوءى التواضع.
30. Money is the most effective emissary. ٣٠. لا رسول كالدرهم.
31. Money salves every wound. ٣١. الدراهم مراهم.
32. More acquisitive than an ant. ٣٢. أجمع من نملة.
33. More adrift than the people of Moses. ٣٣. أثبَّ من قوم موسى.
34. More aggressive than a scorpion. ٣٤. أعذَى من العقرب.
35. More arrogant than a crow. ٣٥. أخيلٌ من غراب.
36. More arrogant than a rooster. ٣٦. أخيلٌ من ديك.
37. More barren than solid rock. ٣٧. أجردٌ من صخرة.
38. More brutish than torrential rain. ٣٨. أغشمٌ من السيل.
39. More cautious than a crow. ٣٩. أحذرٌ من غراب.
40. More cautious than a wolf. ٤٠. أحذرٌ من ذئب.
41. More confused than a lizard. ٤١. أحيِرٌ من ضبّ.
- (الضب: حيوان من الزحافات، "السحلية")

42. More contagious than scabies. ٤٢. أَعْدَى مِنَ الْجَرَبِ.
43. More courageous than a lion. ٤٣. أَشَجَعُ مِنْ لَيْثٍ.
44. More cowardly than an ostrich. ٤٤. أَجْبَنُ مِنْ نَعَامَةٍ.
45. More cunning than a fox. ٤٥. أَرَوْعُ مِنْ ثَعْلَبٍ.
46. More daring than a fly. ٤٦. أَجْرَأُ مِنْ ذُبَابٍ.
47. More deceptive than a mirage. ٤٧. أَغْرُثُ مِنْ سَرَابٍ.
48. More deceptive than a wolf. ٤٨. أَخْتَلُ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ.
49. More deluding than our ambitions. ٤٩. أَغْرُثُ مِنَ الْأَمَانِي.
50. More desperate than a drowning man. ٥٠. أَيَأْسُ مِنْ غَرِيقٍ.
51. More diligent than ants. ٥١. أَكْسَبُ مِنْ نَمَلٍ.
52. More lasting than a tattoo. ٥٢. أَثْبَتُ مِنَ الْوَشْمِ.
53. More foolish than a butterfly. ٥٣. أَجْهَلُ مِنْ فَرَّاشَةٍ.
54. More foolish than someone who chews his water. ٥٤. أَحْمَقُ مِنْ مَاضِغِ الْمَاءِ.
55. More foolish than an ostrich. ٥٥. أَحْمَقُ مِنْ نَعَامَةٍ.
56. More foolish than a scorpion. ٥٦. أَجْهَلُ مِنْ عَقْرَبٍ.
57. More harmful than a wood worm. ٥٧. أَفْسَدُ مِنَ السُّوسِ.

58. More harmful than locusts. ٥٨. أَفْسَدُ مِنَ الْجَرَادِ.
59. More humble than a peg. ٥٩. أَذْلُ مِنْ وَتَدٍ.
60. More humble than a rug. ٦٠. أَذْلُ مِنَ الْبِسَاطِ.
61. More humble than a sole. ٦١. أَذْلُ مِنَ النَّعْلِ.
62. More imitative than a monkey. ٦٢. أَحْكَى مِنْ قَرْدٍ.
63. More cutting than a sword. ٦٣. أَمْضَى مِنَ السَّيْفِ.
64. More piercing than death. ٦٤. أَمْضَى مِنَ الْأَجْلِ.
65. More industrious than a honeybee. ٦٥. أَصْنَعُ مِنَ النَّحْلِ.
66. More industrious than a silkworm. ٦٦. أَصْنَعُ مِنْ دُودِ الْقَزِّ.
67. More intricate than a lizard's tail. ٦٧. أَعْقَدُ مِنْ ذَنْبِ الضَّبِّ.
(الضب: نوع من الزحافات، "السحلية")
68. More jinxed than a grave digger. ٦٨. أَشْأَمُ مِنْ حَقَّارٍ.
69. More noticeable than a fire on a mountaintop. ٦٩. أَشْهَرُ مِنْ نَارٍ عَلَى عَلمٍ.
70. More noticeable than the sun. ٧٠. أَشْهَرُ مِنَ الشَّمْسِ.
71. More penetrating than the wind. ٧١. أَمْضَى مِنَ الرِّيحِ.
72. More piercing than an arrow. ٧٢. أَنْفَذُ مِنَ السَّهْمِ.

73. More reckless than a butterfly. ٧٣. أطيّشُ من فراشة.
74. More revealing than daylight. ٧٤. أنتم من الصبح.
75. More secretive than the earth. ٧٥. أكتُم من الأرض.
76. More sharp-sighted than a bat in the dark. ٧٦. أبصرُ من الوطواط في الليل.
77. More sharp-sighted than an eagle. ٧٧. أبصرُ من عقاب. أبصرُ من نسر.
78. The more the wisdom, the less the words. ٧٨. إذا تمَّ العقلُ نقصَ الكلامُ.
79. More thirsty than a funnel. ٧٩. أشربُ من القمع. أعطشُ من قمع.
80. More thirsty than the sand. ٨٠. أظمأُ من رمل. أشربُ من الرمل. أعطشُ من رمل.
81. More tumultuous than a torrential stream. ٨١. أظغى من السيل.
82. More useful than a much-needed rain. ٨٢. أجدي من الغيث في أوانه.
83. More vengeful than a camel. ٨٣. أحقدُ من جمل.
84. More wakeful than a star. ٨٤. أسهرُ من النجم.
85. More wicked than a snake. ٨٥. أظلمُ من حيّة.

86. The most evil people are those who don't try to hide their evil from other people. ٨٦. شرُّ الناس من لا يبالي أن يراه الناسُ مسيئًا.
87. A mute's mother knows how to talk to the mutes. ٨٧. أمُّ الأخرس تعرف بلغات الخرسان.
88. My bow may be crooked, but my arrows never miss. ٨٨. إن حالت القوسُ فسهمي صائبٌ.

N

1. Necessities acknowledge no restrictions. ١. الضرورات تُبيح المحظورات.
2. Necessity is the mother of invention. ٢. الحاجةُ تفتق الحيلة.
3. Need drives a man to theft. ٣. الخلّة تدعو إلى السلّة. (الخلّة: الحاجة، الفقر؛ السلّة: السرقة)
4. [Someone, or something,] needs less water than a lizard. ٤. أروى من ضبّ. (الضبّ: نوع من الزحافات، "السحلية")
5. [Someone, or something,] needs less water than a snake. ٥. أروى من حيّة.
6. [Someone] needs this less than a baldhead needs a comb. ٦. أغنى عن الشيء من الأقرع عن المشط.
7. Never lie to your God or to your friend. ٧. ربك وصاحبك لا تكذب عليهما.

٢٠. ما كل سوداء تمرة .
20. Not every black thing is a date.

٢١. ما كُلُّ بارقة تجود بمائها .
(البارقة: سحابة ذات برق)
21. Not every thunderbolt brings rain.

٢٢. ما كلَّ قولٍ له جواب .
22. Not every question has a reply.

٢٢. ما كلَّ عورةٍ تُصاب .
23. Not every week spot is vulnerable.

٢٤. لا في العير ولا في النفير .
(العير: قافلة الحمير؛
النفير: مجموعة من الناس)
24. Not good enough to join the gentry, and not bad enough to join the herd.

٢٥. يأكلُ التمر وأرجمُ بالنوى .
25. Not only did they eat my dates, but they also threw the pits at me.

O

١. لا ناقة لي في هذا ولا جمل .
1. Of all the herds you see around, not a single camel belongs to me.

٢. الزيتُ في العجين لا يضيع .
2. Oil kneaded in dough is never lost.

٣. أعمر من نسر .
3. Older than an eagle.

٤. أحيا من ضَبَّ
(الضَبُّ: "السحلية")
4. Older than a lizard.

٨. ما أقصر الليل على الراقد .
8. The night is short for those who are sound asleep.

٩. أعذر من أُنذر .
9. No action can ever be blamed, if it was preceded by a proper warning.

١٠. لا تجارة كالعمل الصالح .
10. No deal is as profitable as a good deed.

١١. وهل يصلح العطارُ ما
أفسد الدهرُ!
11. No drug can ever erase the mark of time.

١٢. لا جُرمَ بعد الندامة .
12. No guilt after repentance.

١٢. شَوْفُ النحاسِ يُظهر
النحاساً .
(شاف الشيء: صقله وجلاه)
13. No matter how hard you polish it, copper will always remain copper.

١٤. لا خير في أربٍ القاك في
لَهَب .
(الأرب: المأرب، الغاية)
14. No need or desire is worth the pain of fire.

١٥. لا يضيع حق وراءه طالب .
15. No property will ever be lost, if its rightful owner doesn't give up.

١٦. لا عتابَ بعد الموت .
16. No reproach after death.

١٧. ما كلُّ ما يُعلم يُقال .
17. Not all we know can be divulged.

١٨. تَرَكُ الجواب على الجاهل
جواب .
18. Not answering a foolish man is an answer in itself.

١٩. ما كلَّ رامي غرضٍ يُصيب .
19. Not every archer hits the mark.

5. Older than a serpent. ٥. أَعْمَرُ مِنْ حَيَّةٍ.
6. On the day of examination, one faces praise or humiliation. ٦. عِنْدَ الْإِمْتِحَانِ يُكْرَمُ الْمَرْءُ أَوْ يَهَانُ.
7. Once he was an anvil, now he became a hammer. ٧. كَانَ سِنْدَانًا فَصَارَ مِطْرَقَةً.
8. [Nothing can be done] once the saddle straps slip down the horse's belly. ٨. بَلَغَ الْحِزَامُ الطَّبِيَّيْنَ.
جَاوَزَ الْحِزَامُ الطَّبِيَّيْنَ.
(الطبيي: حلمة ضرع الناقة، وهي بعيدة تماما عن مربوط حزام السرج)
9. One catches the fish, but another eats it. ٩. هَذَا يَصِيدُ وَهَذَا يَأْكُلُ السَّمَكَةَ.
10. One disaster is still better than two. ١٠. وَبِلَّ أَهْوَنُ مِنْ وَبَلَيْنِ.
11. One never tires of talking about the things one loves. ١١. مَنْ أَحَبَّ شَيْئًا أَكْثَرَ مِنْ ذِكْرِهِ.
12. One is always dazzled by the things that happen fast. ١٢. النَّفْسُ مُوَلَعَةٌ بِحَبِّ الْعَاجِلِ.
13. One water wheel wouldn't roil a sea. ١٣. سَاقِيَةٌ لَا تَعْكَرُ بَحْرًا.
14. Only a fool would knock his head against a rock. ١٤. أَحْمَقُ مِنْ نَاطِحِ الصَّخْرِ.
15. Only after you have galloped with it will you know whether you had mounted a thoroughbred or a hee-haw. ١٥. سَوْفَ تَرَى إِذَا انْجَلَى الْغَبَارُ، أَفْرَسَ تَحْتِكَ أَمْ حِمَارًا.

١٦. الشَّمَاتَةُ لَوَمٌ. 16. Only an evil person would take pleasure in the mishaps of others.
١٧. الشَّرُّ لِلشَّرِّ خُلُقٌ. 17. Only evil repels evil.
١٨. الْحَلِيمُ مَطِيئُ الْجَهْلِ. 18. Only foolish people take advantage of gentle and obliging people.
١٩. إِنْ الْحَدِيدَ بِالْحَدِيدِ يُفْلَحُ. 19. Only iron can split iron.
٢٠. لَا يَفْلُ الْحَدِيدَ إِلَّا الْحَدِيدُ. 20. Only iron defeats iron.
٢١. الْعَجَلَةُ فُرْصَةُ الْعَجْزَةِ. 21. Only unskilled people do things in haste.
٢٢. مَا حَكَ جِلْدَكَ مِثْلُ ظِفْرِكَ. 22. Only when you yourself scratch the spot that itches you will you ever get real relief.
٢٣. خَالَفَ تَذَكَّرَ. 23. Oppose and you'll be noticed.
خَالَفَ تُعْرِفَ.
٢٤. قَدْ يَخْرُجُ مِنَ الصَّدْفِ غَيْرُ الدَّرِّ. 24. Oysters may give other things beside pearls.

P

١. الصَّبْرُ حِيلَةٌ مِنْ لَا حِيلَةَ لَهُ. 1. Patience is a hopeless man's last hope.
٢. دَوَاءُ الدَّهْرِ الصَّبْرُ عَلَيْهِ. 2. Patience is the best medicine against the changes of fate.

R

١. عند الغاية يُعرف السبق.
٢. أولُّ الغضب جنون وآخره ندم.
٣. أصلح غيثٌ ما أفسد البردُ.
٤. كبيضة الديك. كانت بيضة الديك.
٥. أعزُّ من الغراب الأعصم. (أعصم: به بياض وسواد)
٦. شعاع الشمس لا يُخفى ونور الحق لا يُطفى.
٧. خذ الأمر بقوابله. (قوابل الأمر: أوائل الأمر)
٨. يا طبيبُ طبِّ نفسك.
٩. العقلُ وزيرٌ ناصح.
١٠. مُعاقبة الإخوان خير من فقدهم.
١١. منع الجميع أَرْضَى الجميع.
1. A race is decided at the finish line.
2. A rage begins with frenzy and ends with remorse.
3. Rain heals what hail ruins.
4. Rarer than a rooster's egg.
5. Rarer than a white-footed crow.
6. The rays of the sun cannot be hidden, and the light of truth cannot be obscured.
7. Read the signs of coming events!
8. A real healer must be able to heal himself.
9. Reason is man's best adviser.
10. Rebuking your friends is much better than giving up on them.
11. Refusing everybody pleases everybody.

٢. الصبرُ مفتاحُ الفرج.
٤. تأمُّل العيبِ عيب.
٥. الناس أتباعٌ من غلب.
٦. من حفر حفرةً وقع فيها.
٧. الناسُ أعداء ما جهلوا.
٨. لا يعجز القوم إذا تعاونوا.
٩. ومن اللجاجة ما يضرُّ وينفع.
١٠. جلدُ الخنزير لا يندبغ.
١١. رضا الناس غايةٌ لا تُدرَك.
١٢. هَرَّقْ على جمرِكَ. (هراق الماء، أو هرق الماء: صب الماء)
١٣. أحسنُ من الطاووس.
3. Patience is the key to relief.
4. Paying attention to obscenity is an obscene act in itself.
5. People always follow a winner.
6. People always stumble into the pitfalls they dig for others.
7. People are enemies of the things they don't know.
8. People don't lack strength when they work together.
9. Persistence sometimes helps, but it also sometimes harms.
10. A pig's skin cannot be tanned.
11. Pleasing everybody is an unreachable aim.
12. Pour water on your embers when they become too hot.
13. Prettier than a peacock.

12. Regretting your silence is better than regretting your words.

١٢. الندم على السكوت خير من الندم على القول.

13. Remoter than a star.

١٣. أنأى من الكوكب.

14. Rewards should match the deeds.

١٤. الجزاء من جنس العمل.

15. [Someone] rises earlier than a crow.

١٥. أبكر من غراب.

16. [Someone went so fast, as if he were] riding on the wings of an ostrich.

١٦. ركب جناحي النعامة.

17. Roses come from thorny bushes.

١٧. من الشوكة تخرج الورد.

18. Ruined is the man who seeks help from an evil man.

١٨. العديم من احتاج الى لئيم.

S

1. A sage's supposition is better than a fool's certitude.

١. ظنُّ العاقل خير من يقين الجاهل.

2. Saying "If I had done this," or "If I had done that," will never be able to change the past.

٢. وهل يُغني من الحدثان ليت!

3. A scorpion stings then shrieks for help.

٣. تلدغ العقرب وتصيء.
(يصيء، يصوي؛
يصوصق، يزقزق،
يصرصر)

4. A scout doesn't lie to his own people.

٤. الرائد لا يكذب اهله.

5. Should one hope for rain when there are no clouds in the sky?

٥. هل يُرتجى مطر بغير سحب!

6. Shyer than an ostrich.

٦. أنفر من نعامة.

7. Sift people and people will sieve you.

٧. من غربل الناس نخلوه.

8. Silence may sometimes be the proper answer.

٨. ربما كان السكوت جواباً.

9. Silence is always better when you can't find the right words.

٩. عي صامت خير من عي ناطق.
(العي: العجز)

10. Silence is the brother of consent.

١٠. السكوت أخو الرضا.

11. Similar to each other as if they were two dates.

١١. إنه لأشبه به من التمرة بالتمرة.

12. Simple events sometimes lead to serious events.

١٢. ويحدث من بعض الأمور أمور.

13. A simple demand may sometimes lead to war.

١٣. رب طلب جر إلى حرب.

14. A single cadaver cannot befoul the whole sea.

١٤. جيفة لا تُعكر بحراً.

15. A single glance is sometimes more eloquent than many words.

١٥. رب طرف أفصح من لسان.

16. [Someone was so restless, as if he were] sitting on smoldering coal.

١٦. أحر من الجمر.
على أحر من الجمر.

17. A slave is the man who has no slaves. ١٧. العبدُ من لا عبدَ له.
18. A slave must be beaten to get his attention, but a freeman needs nothing more than a hint. ١٨. العبد يُقرع بالعصا والحرُّ تكفيه الإشارة.
19. A slip of the foot is less harmful than a slip of the tongue. ١٩. عثرة القدم أسلم من عثرة اللسان.
20. Small pebbles are parts of big mountains. ٢٠. الحَصَاةُ من الجبل.
21. A snake charmer is never safe from bites. ٢١. الحاري لا ينجو من الحيَّات.
22. Socialize like brothers, but do business like foreigners. ٢٢. تعاشرُوا كالأخوان وتعاملُوا كالأجناس.
23. Soft words but harsh deeds. ٢٣. كلامٌ لينٌ وظلمٌ بينٌ.
24. Solitude is better than an evil companion. ٢٤. الوَحْدَةُ خَيْرٌ من جليس السوء.
25. Some dead people are not worth the tears we shed on them. ٢٥. هذا الميت لا يساوي هذا البكاء.
26. Some diseases may make the body stronger. ٢٦. ورُبُّما صَحَّتْ الأجسامُ بالعلل.
27. Some eloquent words work like magic. ٢٧. إِنَّ من البيان لَسِحْرًا.
28. Some evil is less evil than others. ٢٨. بعضُ الشرِّ أهونُ من بعض.
29. Some eyes say more than tongues. ٢٩. رُبَّ عَيْنٍ أُنْمَتْ من لسان.
30. Some friends are closer than real brothers. ٣٠. رُبَّ أَخٍ لم تلدهُ والدَةٌ.
31. Some fulfilled wishes cause a person's downfall. ٣١. رُبَّ أُمْنِيَّةٍ جلبت مَنِيَّةً.
32. Some gladness easily turns into sadness. ٣٢. رُبَّ فَرَحَةٍ تعودَ تَرَحَةً. (الترح: الحزن)
33. Some hearts have eyes. ٣٣. في بعض القلوب عيون.
34. Some kinds of liberation are much worse than slavery. ٣٤. رُبَّ عِتْقٍ شرٌّ من رِقٍّ.
35. Someone must have drawn all this milk. ٣٥. لكلِّ دَرٍّ حَالِبٌ.
36. Some silence is more eloquent than words. ٣٦. رُبَّ سَكُوتٍ أبلغُ من كلام.
37. Some swords inspire fear, even when they remain in their sheaths. ٣٧. قد يُتَوَقَّى السيف وهو مغمَد.
38. Some words are mightier than hard blows. ٣٨. رُبَّ قولٍ أشدُّ من صَوْلٍ. (الصول: الهجوم)
39. Some words vanish in thin air. ٣٩. وبعض القول يذهب في الرياح.
40. The sovereignty of knowledge will always prevail. ٤٠. ليس لسلطان العلم زوال.
41. [It] sticks harder than ticks. ٤١. أعلق من قُرَاد.
42. Support your brother, even if only with words. ٤٢. أَعِنْ أَخاك ولو بالصوت.
43. Swifter than an arrow. ٤٣. أَمْرُقٌ من سهم.

T

1. Take part or depart. ١. إن لم يكن وفاقً ففراق.
2. [A confusion like the one that happens, when] tamed and untamed camels get together. ٢. إختلط المرعيُّ بالهمل.
(المرعيّ: الإبل التي لها راع؛ الهمل: الإبل التي لا راع لها)
3. Tamer than a dog. ٣. ألف من كلب.
4. Tamer than the doves of Mekka. ٤. ألف من حمام مكة.
5. There are four kinds of men: A man who knows and knows that he knows; he is a learned man, follow him. A man who knows, but doesn't know that he knows; he is asleep, awake him. A man who doesn't know and knows that he doesn't know; he needs guidance, teach him. And a man who doesn't know and doesn't know that he doesn't know; he is a fool, renounce him. ٥. الرجال اربعة: رجل يدري ويدري انه يدري فذلك عالم فاتبعوه. ورجل يدري ولا يدري انه يدري فذلك نائم فأيقظوه. ورجل لا يدري ويدري انه لا يدري فذلك مسترشد فعلموه. ورجل لا يدري ولا يدري انه لا يدري فذلك جاهل فرفضوه.
6. There are two kinds of days: days you win, and days you lose. ٦. الدهر يومان، يومٌ لك ويومٌ عليك.
يومٌ لنا ويومٌ علينا.
7. There is always enough room on this earth for free, honorable people. ٧. وفي الأرض للحرّ الكريم منادح.
(المنادحة، المنتدح: السعة، الفسحة)

8. There is always more room behind you. ٨. وراءك أوسع لك.
9. There is an eavesdropper for every word uttered loosely. ٩. لكلّ ساقطةٍ لاقطة.
10. There is a proper reward for every deed, and a fitting reply to every question. ١٠. لكلّ عملٍ ثواب ولكلّ كلام جواب.
11. There is a reply for every speech. ١١. لكلّ خطاب جواب.
12. There is enough room in your chest for all your secrets. ١٢. صدرك أوسع لسرك.
13. There is no good deed like helping a man in need. ١٣. أفضلُ المعروف إغاثة الملهوف.
14. They defeated the high-minded, but the base-minded defeated them. ١٤. يغلبن الكرام ويغلبهنّ اللثام.
15. Things always go back to where they came from. ١٥. عاد الأمرُ الى نصابه.
16. Things always become clearer, after the dust settles down. ١٦. سوف ترى اذا انجلي الغبار.
17. Things you store in pots will be consumed, but things you keep in your heart will stay forever. ١٧. يفنى ما في القدور ويبقى ما في الصدور.
18. Thinner than the shadow of a lance. ١٨. أضيّق من ظلّ الرمح.
19. This cake is made from that dough. ١٩. هذا الكعك من ذاك العجين.

20. This will take place when the crow's feathers turn white. ٢٠. لا يكون ذلك حتى يشيب الغراب.
21. A thorny bush doesn't yield any grapes. ٢١. لا يُثمر الشوك العنب.
22. Those who believe in the goodness of others are liable to get in trouble. ٢٢. حُسْنُ الظنِّ وَرَظَةٌ.
23. Those who have no followers also have no opinion. ٢٣. لا رأي لمن لا يُطاع.
24. Throw the stone back at those who threw it at you. ٢٤. رُدِّ الحجر من حيث جاءك.
25. Time is the best of all mentors. ٢٥. نِعَمَ المؤدِّبُ الدهرُ.
26. Tinier than a mosquito's brain. ٢٦. أعزُّ من مُخِّ البعوض.
27. A tit for tat, and he who starts will be the villain. ٢٧. هذه بتلك والبادئُ أظلم.
28. Today's egg is better than tomorrow's chicken. ٢٨. بيضةُ اليوم خير من دجاجة الغد.
29. Today's work shouldn't be delayed until tomorrow. ٢٩. لا تُؤخِّرْ عمل اليوم لغدٍ.
30. Toil for me and I'll toil for you. ٣٠. إكدح لي أكدح لك.
31. To hurry is to err. ٣١. الخطأ زاد العَجُول.
32. [Because this day is almost over,] tomorrow, for the hopeful, is close at hand. ٣٢. [فإن يك صدرُ هذا اليوم ولىّ] فإنَّ غدًا لناظره قريب.
33. Too many helmsmen wrecked the ship. ٣٣. من كثرة الملاحين غرقت السفينة.
34. Too much jesting breeds ill will. ٣٤. المزاح لقاح الضغائن.
35. To their mothers people run, whenever they are hurting. ٣٥. إلى أمِّه يلحف اللّهُفان.
36. To panic in face of a calamity, always makes it twice as bad. ٣٦. الجزعُ عند المصيبة مُصيبةٌ أخرى.
37. To save myself, I lost my nose. ٣٧. شفيتُ نفسي وجدعتُ أنفي.
38. To scare away a vicious dog, another vicious dog is needed. ٣٨. يُعدُّ لكلِّبِ السَّوءِ كلبٌ يعادله.
39. Truth is always covered by bubbles. ٣٩. تحت الرغوة الصريح.
40. Truth gets on people's nerves. ٤٠. الحقُّ مَغْضِبَةٌ.
41. Truth glitters and falsehood falters. ٤١. الحقُّ ابلجُّ والباطلُ لَجَلَجُ.
42. Truth is the best than can be said. ٤٢. الحقُّ خيرُ ما يُقال.
43. A truth that displeases is better than a lie that pleases. ٤٣. حَقٌّ يضرُّ خيرٌ من باطلٍ يسرُّ.
44. Turning back is always safer. ٤٤. العودُ أحمَدُ.
45. Two blades will never fit in a single sheath. ٤٥. لا يُجمَعُ سيفانِ في غمدٍ.

U

1. Upholding the truth is a noble deed. ١. نُصْرَةُ الْحَقِّ شَرَفٌ.
2. Useful possessions are the best possessions. ٢. خَيْرُ الْمَالِ مَا نَفَعَ.
خَيْرُ مَالِكَ مَا نَفَعَكَ.

W

1. War is a monster. ١. الْحَرْبُ غَشُومٌ.
2. War is deception. ٢. الْحَرْبُ خُدْعَةٌ.
3. War seems harmless to the onlookers. ٣. مَا أَهْوَنَ الْحَرْبِ عَلَى
النَّظَّارَةِ.
4. A watchful dog is better than a sleepy lion. ٤. كَلْبٌ عَسِيٌّ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَسَدٍ
رَبَضٍ.
(عَسِيٌّ: طَافَ بِاللَّيْلِ بِغَرَضِ
الْحِرَاسَةِ)
5. We become blind and deaf, when it comes to what we love. ٥. حُبُّكَ الشَّيْءَ يُعَمِّي وَيُصِمُّ.
6. We can only give what we have received. ٦. وَإِنَّمَا تُعْطِي الَّذِي أُعْطِينَا.
7. We drink tonight, and tomorrow we fight. ٧. الْيَوْمَ خَمْرٌ وَغَدًا أَمْرٌ.

8. The well lasts longer than the bucket and the rope. ٨. الْبَيْتْرُ أَبْقَى مِنَ الرَّشَاءِ.
(الرَّشَاءُ: حَبْلُ الدَّلْوِ)
9. What good are swords, if we don't have men! ٩. وَمَا أَنْفَعُ السِّيفُ بِلَا رِجَالٍ.
10. What is good for the liver, is bad for the spleen. ١٠. مَا يَنْفَعُ الْكَبِدَ يَضُرُّ
الطَّحَالَ.
11. What can a marksman do, when his bow suddenly ruptures. ١١. مَا حِيلَةُ الرَّامِي إِذَا انْقَطَعَ
الْوَتَرُ.
12. What will happen, will happen on time. ١٢. كُلُّ آتٍ قَرِيبٌ.
13. When a camel is about to die, it goes in circles around the well. ١٣. إِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُ الْبَعِيرِ حَامٍ
حَوْلَ الْبَيْتْرِ.
14. When a jackass went to get itself a pair of horns, it came back without its ears. ١٤. ذَهَبَ الْحِمَارُ يَطْلُبُ قَرْنَيْنِ
فَعَادَ مَصْلُومَ الْأُذْنَيْنِ.
(صَلَمَ الشَّيْءُ: قَطَعَهُ مِنْ
أَصْلِهِ)
15. When a learned man errs, many men will follow and err. ١٥. إِذَا زَلَّ الْعَالِمُ زَلًّا بَزَّيْتِهِ
عَالَمٌ.
16. When a man's predestined time arrives, his eyesight will be restricted. ١٦. إِذَا جَاءَ الْقَدَرُ غَشِيَ الْبَصَرَ.
17. When an inquisitive man was thrown into Hell, he asked why the firewood was not dry enough. ١٧. دَخَلَ فُضُولِيُّ النَّارِ فَقَالَ
الْحَطْبُ رَطْبٌ.
18. When a rip becomes too wide, it is too late to patch it up. ١٨. إِتَّسَعَ الْخَرْقُ عَلَى الرَّاتِقِ.

19. When facing a common disaster, people forget their hate and anger. ١٩. عند الشدائد تذهب الأحقاد.
20. When God wants to destroy an ant, He gives it wings and lets it fly. ٢٠. إذا أراد الله هلاك نملة أنبت لها جناحين.
21. When he is straight, he is like a knife, and when he bends, he becomes a sickle. ٢١. إن استوى فسكين وإن اعوج فمئجل.
22. [I taught him how to hold the bow, and] when his hands became steady, he made me his first mark. ٢٢. [أعلمته الرماية كل يوم] فلما استدّ ساعده رمانني. (استدّ: استقام)
23. When in love, advice has no effect. ٢٣. ليس في الحب مشورة.
24. When it faces an isolated man, a wolf suddenly becomes a lion. ٢٤. الذئب خالياً أسد.
25. When it is time for us to go, the cosmic space will close on us. ٢٥. إذا حان القضاء ضاق الفضاء.
26. [This will happen] when the lizard and the whale become friends. ٢٦. حتى يؤلف بين الضب والنون. (الضب: "السحلية"; النون: الحوت)
27. [This will happen] when the lizard goes to drink. ٢٧. حتى يرد الضب. (ورد الماء: صار إليه; الضب: "السحلية")
28. 29. When the wind blows, it favors no ship. ٢٨. تجري الرياح بما لا تشتهي السفن.
29. When there is no other cure, searing must be done. ٢٩. آخر الداء الكي.
30. When they bump against one another, the hornless ram will always lose. ٣٠. عند النطاح يُغلب الكبش الأجم. (الأجم: ليس له قرون)
31. When you betray, you become a prey. ٣١. من خان هان.
32. When you hear poorly, you answer poorly. ٣٢. أساء سمعاً فأساء إجابةً.
33. When you plant a thornbush, don't ever expect grapes. ٣٣. من يزرع الشوك لا يحصد به العنبا.
34. When you renounce all your desires, you'll gain your total freedom. ٣٤. من ترك الشهوات عاش حرّاً.
35. When on foot, all rides are welcome. ٣٥. من يمشي يرض بما ركب.
36. When you talk much, you err much. ٣٦. أفرط فأسقط.
37. When you wish, wish a lot. ٣٧. إذا تمنيت فاستكثر.
38. While his tongue was praying, his hand was slaying. ٣٨. فم يسبح ويدٌ تُذبح.
39. While man is contemplating the universe, God is conducting its course. ٣٩. الإنسان بالتفكير والله بالتدبير.
40. Whom you can't conquer, try to cajole. ٤٠. إذا لم تغلب فاخلب.

41. Why do you keep blowing,
when there is no fire! .٤١ نَفَخْتَ فِي غَيْرِ ضَرَمٍ.
42. Why would I want a sun that
doesn't make me warm! .٤٢ مَا لِي بِشَمْسٍ لَا تَدْفِينِي.
43. Wisdom is the purpose of
every believer. .٤٣ الْحِكْمَةُ ضَالَّةُ الْمُؤْمِنِ.
44. A wise man will never win, if
he does battle with a fool. .٤٤ لَا يُنْتَصِفُ حَلِيمٌ مِنْ جَهُولٍ.
45. The wisest of men appreciate
the failings of other men. .٤٥ أَعْقَلُ النَّاسِ أَعْذَرَهُمْ
لِلنَّاسِ.
46. Within the walls of his
home, every grown-up
becomes a child. .٤٦ كُلُّ أَمْرِيٍّ فِي بَيْتِهِ صَبِيٌّ.
47. A wolf in sheep's clothing. .٤٧ تَحْتَ جِلْدِ الضَّائِنِ قَلْبُ
الْأَذْوَبِ.
(أَذْوَبٌ: جَمْعُ ذَنْبٍ)
48. A woman's wisdom is her
beauty, and a man's beauty is
his wisdom. .٤٨ عَقْلُ الْمَرْأَةِ فِي جَمَالِهَا
وَجَمَالُ الرَّجُلِ فِي عَقْلِهِ.
49. Women are snares designed by
the Devil. .٤٩ إِنَّ النِّسَاءَ حَبَائِلُ الشَّيْطَانِ.
50. [His] words are like honey,
but [his] deeds are like dag-
gers. .٥٠ كَلَامٌ كَالْعَسَلِ وَفِعْلٌ كَالْأَسَلِ.
(الْأَسَلُ: الرَّمَاحُ، السِّيفُ)
51. The worst disasters are the
ones that make us laugh. .٥١ شَرُّ الشَّدَائِدِ مَا يُضْحَكُ.

Y

1. You can only sing when you're
merry. .١ النشيد مع المسرة.
2. You can protect your brother
from everything but himself. .٢ تَحْفَظُ أَخَاكَ إِلَّا مِنْ نَفْسِهِ.
3. You can't forge cold iron. .٣ إِنَّكَ تَضْرِبُ فِي حَدِيدٍ بَارِدٍ.
4. You can't harvest grapes from a
thorny bush. .٤ إِنَّكَ لَا تَجْنِي مِنَ الشُّوكِ
الْعِنَبَ.
5. You can't hide if you are sitting
on a camel. .٥ مَا اسْتَتَرَ مِنْ قَادِ الْجَمَلِ.
6. You'd better fill your quiver,
long before you start to shoot. .٦ قَبْلَ الرِّمَاءِ تُمَلِّأُ الْكَنَائِنَ.
الْكُنَائِنُ جَمْعُ كُنَانَةٍ، وَهِيَ
الْجَبَّةُ الَّتِي تَحْفَظُ فِيهَا
السَّهَامُ
7. You'd better quit, if it doesn't
fit. .٧ مَا لَا يَصْلُحُ تَرَكْهُ أَصْلَحَ.
8. You'd better start with the
things nearest to you. .٨ خُذْ مَا طَفَّ لَكَ.
(طَفَّ مِنْهُ: دَنَا مِنْهُ)
9. You don't need to teach an
orphan how to cry. .٩ لَا تُعَلِّمُ الْيَتِيمَ الْبُكَاءَ.
10. You I mean, but also your
neighbor will get the
message! .١٠ إِيَّاكَ أَعْنِي وَاسْمِعِي يَا جَارَةَ.
11. You keep cutting, but you keep
missing the joint. .١١ تُكْثِرُ الْحَزَّ وَتُخْطِئُ الْمَفْصَلَ.
(الْحَزُّ: الْقَطْعُ)

12. You may cut your own nose,
while you're trying to protect
it. ١٢. رَبِّ حَامٍ لَأَنْفِهِ وَهُوَ جَادِعُهُ.
13. You owe your brother, exactly
what he does owe you. ١٣. لِأَخِيكَ عَلَيْكَ مِثْلُ الَّذِي
لَكَ عَلَيْهِ.
14. You reached greener pastures,
now you should dismount! ١٤. أَعْشَبْتَ فَانْزِلْ.
15. You reap what you sow. ١٥. كَمَا تَزْرَعُ تَحْصِدُ.
16. Your hand is a part of you,
even if it is lame. ١٦. يَدُكَ مِنْكَ وَإِنْ كَانَتْ شَلَّاءَ.
17. Your informer and your enemy
are one and the same. ١٧. الرَّائِيَةُ أَحَدُ الشَّاتِمِينَ.
18. Your nose is a part of you, even
if it has been disfigured. ١٨. مِنْكَ أَنْفُكَ وَإِنْ كَانَ أَجْدَعَ.
19. Your true brother is the one
who tells you the truth. ١٩. أَخُوكَ مَنْ صَدَّقَكَ.
20. You would really know how it
tastes, only if you would
choke on it. ٢٠. أَعْلَمُ بِهَا مِنْ غَصٍّ بِهَا.
(غَصٌّ بِالطَّعَامِ: تَوَقَّفَ
الطَّعَامُ فِي حَلْقِهِ وَمَنَعَهُ مِنَ
التَّنَفُّسِ)

من أقوال العرب وتشبيهاتهم الأدبية

OLD ARABIC SAYINGS,
SIMILES, AND METAPHORS

A Bilingual Edition
English / Arabic

Translated from the Arabic by

SAAD ELKHADEM

A compilation of some of the wisest proverbs and wittiest metaphors used by the Arabs over the years, and passed down from generation to generation.

Saad Elkhadem (Sa'd al-Khâdim) teaches German and comparative literature at the University of New Brunswick; he is the editor of *The International Fiction Review* and the general editor of *Authoritative Studies in World Literature*. Dr. Elkhadem has written a considerable number of novels, plays, and short stories, edited numerous scholarly books, and translated several works of literature.

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